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Recommended Citation

Armstrong State University, "Armstrong Hosts 2010 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic" (2010).
Armstrong Women's Basketball News Archives. 172.
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INSIDE ATHLETICS

Armstrong Hosts 2010 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic





Posted: Dec 16, 2010

SAVANNAH, Ga. - Armstrong Atlantic State University will host the 2010 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18, featuring four games each day - two women's contests and two men's contests.

The men's field features the Pirates (3-2) and fellow in-state rival Valdosta State (8-2) facing off against nearby NAIA foe Brewton-Parker College (1-6) and Tennessee school Hiwassee College (2-7).

Valdosta State and Brewton-Parker will meet on Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m., while the Pirates will face the Tigers of Hiwassee for the first time in school history at 8:00 p.m. Saturday, Hiwassee meets Valdosta State at 3:00 p.m., while the Pirates will take on Brewton-Parker at 8:00 p.m. Armstrong and Brewton-Parker, separated by a scant 100 miles, meet for the fourth time in school history and the Pirates have won all three previous matchups, including an 81-74 win over the Barons last season.

The Pirates have not played since a 75-57 loss to then-No. 18 Augusta State on December 4, a break of nearly two weeks. Junior Grant Domsic paces the Pirate offense, averaging 15.4 points per game while ranking in the top five nationally in three-point shooting, hitting 21-of-39 from beyond the arc for 53.8 percent. Valdosta State has won five straight since suffering a 94-74 home loss to Armstrong Atlantic and Kevin Harris leads the Blazer attack, averaging 20.4 points per game. The Blazers have several Savannah natives on the roster who will be playing in front of their home crowds, including Josh Sparks (Savannah Christian) and Asa Nails (Groves HS). Hiwassee competes in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association and is led by Zack Williams, who ranks third in the USCAA in scoring, averaging 25.1 points per game. Despite Brewton-Parker's record, the Barons have been tough this season, leading DI Georgia Southern by two at the half before falling by 12, 86-74, to the Eagles on Sunday. DeMario Black had a career-high 27 points in the game for Brewton-Parker.

The women's side of the tournament features the Lady Pirates (5-2) and fellow Peach Belt Conference school Columbus State (5-2) taking on a pair of Southeast Regional foes in Mount Olive (3-3) and Anderson (4-2). Columbus State takes on Anderson at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, while host Armstrong will face Mount Olive at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, the action flips with Mount Olive taking on Columbus State at 1:00 p.m., then the Lady Pirates facing Anderson at 6:00 p.m.

The Lady Pirates have won three straight since starting off the season 2-2 and Tuesday's 95-59 win over Columbia (SC) makes Armstrong a perfect 4-0 this season at Alumni Arena. Senior Arpine Amirkhanyan was the Peach Belt Conference's Player of the Week on Dec. 6 and she ranks among the PBC's top 10 in both scoring (14.7 ppg) and rebounding (8.6 rpg). Columbus State is led offensively by Dominique Gilbert, who averages 13.4 points per game, but it's the Cougars defense that makes headlines as they are holding opponents to just 33 percent shooting from the floor and 23.5 percent from three-point range. Mount Olive's men participated in last year's Fall Finals Classic, so this year it's the ladies' turn to make the jaunt to Savannah from North Carolina. The Trojans are led by Jasmine Whitby, who averages 16.2 points per game, which ranks second in Conference Carolinas. Anderson, out of the South Atlantic Conference, has won four straight and are paced by Ashley Abed, who shoots 50 percent from the floor and averages 15.6 points per game

Fans can follow along with all the action this weekend with live statistics of all the games and webcasts of the Armstrong contests at the official website of the 2010 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic at <http://aasupirates.com/sports/mbkb/2010-11/bk2010classic>.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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